(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All India Radio and Doordarshan cover important news and current affairs events in a fair, balanced and objective manner without promoting interests of any party. AIR and Doordarshan strictly follow the news policy and guidelines laid down by the Media Advisory Committee. The report which appeared in the Times of India of 1st June, 1989 is not based on facts. There is no inierference in the news coverage of AIR/TV. Both AIR and Doordarshan enjoy functional autonomy in all professional matters.

Progress of Babrala Fertiliser Plant

1244. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whehert it is a fact that a gas-based fertilizer plant is going to be established at Babrala in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the progress of the completion of the above plant; and

(c) by when the above plant is likely to start production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The progress in implementation of the project made by the promoters is indicated below:—

(i) the promoters, their shareholders and associates have subcribed Rs.. 85 crores to the share capital.

(ii) the land has been leased to the promoters.

(iii) the engineering contracts have been approved by Government.

(iv) the financial institutions and banks have sanctioned a rupee loan of Rs. 292 crores.

(v) the foreign exchange sources have been approved.

(vi) environmental clearance has been accorded; and

(vii) DGTD clearance for the import of capital goods has been obtained.

(c) The plant is expected to start production in 42 months from the 'zero date' which will commence after M/s. Tata Fertilisers Ltd. merge with M/s. Tata Chemicals Ltd., for which legal and procedural steps are underway.

Clearance of backlog of jobs for handicapped persons in the country

1245. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge backlog of jobs for the handicapped in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details and what steps have been taken by Government to clear the backlog of vacancies for the handicapped and the number of proposals announced for the welfare of the handicapped persons;

(c) whether Government propose to bring legislation for the welfare of the handicapped; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposals to be included in the proposed legislation?